

The Climate Pilgrimage

Why are we walking?

We are walking from the Vatican to Katowice to raise a prophetic voice for action on climate change. Grounded in the values of our faith, we are standing in solidarity with the most vulnerable. We urge leaders to act in courage and love to protect the Earth, our common home, and all who share it.

What are we calling for?

Bishops from five continents have prayed to God for humanity to “protect the beautiful earthly garden you have created for us, for all our brothers and sisters, for all generations to come.” (Continental Bishops’ Statement, 2015)

As pilgrims on the road to care of creation, we call for:

- An ambitious global rule book and enhanced climate ambition that ensures a quick end to the fossil fuel era
- A just transition to the clean energy economy
- A new practice of integral ecology by individuals and communities

What principles guide us?

Our pilgrimage is guided by [Laudato Si’](#), Pope Francis’ encyclical letter on climate change and ecology. Many of us pilgrims are Catholic, and all of us are grateful for the wisdom in the encyclical, which is addressed to “every person living on this planet.” (3)

Laudato Si’ encourages us to see that “a great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.” (202)

We pray for the healing of humanity’s spirit. We pray for justice for the poor and vulnerable, who are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change—its dirtier air, sicker families, more extreme weather, and growing hunger.

Laudato Si’ draws us toward an “ecological conversion,” in which the values of our faith—love of our Creator, love for our neighbors—are demonstrated in how we preserve the resources of our common home. (216)

We pray for ecological conversion among people of faith and all people of good will.

Laudato Si’ helps us understand “that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels—especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas—needs to be progressively replaced without delay.” (165)

We pray for a quick and just transition to clean energy, one that provides meaningful employment to workers in a changing industry.

Laudato Si' teaches us that "interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan" and that "global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries." (164)

We pray for a robust global rulebook that will step up climate ambition and limit warming to 1.5 degrees. We can bend the arc of emissions downward if we act courageously and urgently. There's not a moment to lose.

How do we collaborate?

"We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." (Laudato Si', 14)

As people of both the global north and the global south, we value voices from diverse communities. All of us bring important perspectives to this conversation, but whether sharing stories from the Philippines of the typhoons that devastate our homes or stories from Europe of the polluted air that makes our children sick, we share a common cause.

As the Climate Pilgrimage shares a message of care for creation along 1,500 kilometers of roads and byways, we encourage communities to address our core message and calls to action in the way that best suits their local contexts.